

THE STORY OF
Abraham Lincoln



*Journey from Log Cabin
to
White House*



By
ELEANOR GRIDLEY



LINCOLN READING BY THE FLICKERING LIGHT

To the author of "Journey From Log Cabin To White House"

ELEANOR GRIDLEY

See Lincoln reading by the flickering light
In Plutarch's story of Timoleon,
The Syracusan, who in words and deeds
So much resembled Old Abe one could say
That Lincoln copied him. Perhaps he did:
For who would not by knowledge of such lives
Be bettered? By his "Lives" of famous men
Did Plutarch make himself a deathless name,-
The glory of their lives ennobles him
Who as Recorder shares their mighty deeds,
And lives with them forever.

So I hope
The years will bring you honor and returns
As one of these, like Old Mortality,
Who deeper cut the chiseled, time-worn lines
Of long-neglected monuments, too soon

Forgotten in the swirl and rush
Of daily trifles and ephemeral things.
So even now a boy is reading thru
The pages of your *book* who will some time,
Receiving the attention of the world,
Tell how to him, upon your words,
Came Inspiration.

Wingless are most words:
They fall like lead, dead, lifeless from the lips,
And die at once when uttered. Other words
Like birds strong-winged fly mighty distances
As far, almost, as are the poles apart,-
Like that Australian bird which yearly nests
In northern Greenland: such are Winged Words.

W. F. COOLING.

WHAT THEY SAY

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Gridley:

The poem by Mr. Cooling is a most worthy tribute to your splendid work. True it is that: "Wingless are most words, but others fly upon the wind." We can all remember the book or books which seem to touch the chord and bring to us inspiration and purpose, and I am sure your book, "From Log Cabin to White House," is such a book and there are yet young people in the land who will catch a glimpse of the great future upon its pages. My warmest regards,

Cordially yours,

JOHN BARTON PAYNE,
Chairman Executive Officers,
The American Red Cross.

Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mrs. Gridley:

It is with a feeling of deepest gratitude that I write you. Your lectures on our great Lincoln to the boys in the Cook County Jail School were a wonderful inspiration, and your own great story, "The Journey from Log Cabin to White House" has been of inestimable value to many a boy incarcerated here awaiting trial.

Many have closed your book saying, "A great man, and I'll try to follow him."

Wishing you continued joy in your great work,

Most cordially,
FLORENCE E. SCULLY
Principal Cook County Jail School.

In his memoirs, Sir Harry Lauder writes, "One of the greatest and grandest books I have ever read is 'From Log Cabin to White House.'"

When, in response to Sir Harry's letter, I called on the distinguished comedian and popular singer, behind the scenes, extending his hand in friendly greeting the Bard of Scotland re-affirmed his opinion adding: "Every lad in the land should read your Story of Abraham Lincoln."

Fort William, Ontario.

My dear Mrs. Gridley:

I have not had time to read again, "The Journey from Log Cabin to White House," but have merely glanced at it to renew some of the very fine impressions which I got from it many years ago, when I first read it and got my first glimpse of a man who has always had my sincerest admiration and I might even say my affection. Lincoln, with his scant opportunities, his limited education, and his magnificent achievements, has always appeared to me to be the most inspiring ideal that any young American boy can keep before his mind, and your book is a splendid introduction to a knowledge of that ideal; an introduction which lays excellent foundations for later and fuller reading.

Yours very sincerely,

R. J. MANION,
House of Commons; Canada.
Noted Physician.

Moline, Illinois.

My dear Mrs. Gridley:

It gives me great pleasure to say the following concerning your book:

I am credited with having the largest collection of books and pamphlets on Abraham Lincoln, and I am the author of the Oakleaf Bibliography of Lincoln Literature. I have found the Story of Abraham Lincoln, by Eleanor Gridley, to be wonderfully accurate, and I have purchased many copies that I have given to friends who desired to have something worth while on Abraham Lincoln. I would not take \$50.00 for my copy if I could not get another. It deserves a place in the library of every American citizen. Your book will live as long as the memory of Abraham Lincoln is revered.

Most cordially,
Your friend,
JOSEPH BENJAMIN OAKLEAF

WHAT THEY SAY



Chicago, Illinois.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My friends know what a great admirer I am of Abraham Lincoln and that I read everything about him I can get.

I was taught to love Abraham Lincoln when I was only three years of age and that love has deepened steadily with the years. One of the earliest recollections is that of a long procession of farm wagons going past our log cabin in Western Illinois in 1864, each wagon containing men splitting rails. Our neighbors during fourteen years of my life were such people as Abraham Lincoln came from.

I write this that it may be better understood how happy I was when I read Eleanor Gridley's Story of Abraham Lincoln. During Mrs. Gridley's sojourn at the Lincoln log cabin where she talked with the old neighbors, friends and relatives of Abraham Lincoln. As a result she got the correct atmosphere, the authentic background, the essential spirit. Her work is the most significant, informative and truthful biography of Lincoln yet written.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN M. STAHL,
President Allied Arts Association.

Springfield, Illinois.

My dear Mrs. Gridley:

I think you ought to know that your book "The Story of Abraham Lincoln from Log Cabin to White House" is very useful in my work and I refer to it daily. I have at the tomb 10,000 guests per month and thousands of mothers ask "What book can I get for my boy that would be most liable to interest him in the study of Lincoln?"

I show them four or five of the "First Aids" and many of them say that your book is just what they want.

I have 20,000 Lincoln items gathered and arranged with a view of answering the inquiries about Lincoln. I have a list of some 5,000 of these questions that have been authoritatively answered and your book answers fully its share.

Yours very truly,
H. W. FAY,
Custodian, Lincoln Tomb.

Excerpts from a letter written by John Wesley Hill, Chancellor of Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, Tenn., to a personal friend:

"I deeply prize the autographed presentation of 'The Story of Abraham Lincoln.' The historic data, no less than the sentiments of friendship, stamp the book with unusual value.

"I have read the Story of Lincoln with interest and profit. It is surely a most valuable addition to Lincolnism."

Clarksdale, Mississippi.

My dear Mrs. Gridley:

It would be interesting to know just how long a shelf would be necessary to accommodate all of the books written about Lincoln. It would be still more interesting to reduce that long row to a "five foot shelf." There is a niche in that selected shelf for Mrs. Gridley's "Journey from Log Cabin to White House." Her work will serve as one of the foundation stones for future students and historians of Lincoln. It is a fascinating story for both young and old, and should be read by all who wish a better understanding of the early environment of the great President.

With every good wish, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
HAROLD K. SAGE,
Collector of Lincolniana.

Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mrs. Gridley:

You are very welcome to use my name in recommending your book if you think it will be of any use to you. You may say, if you like, that reading this book "The Journey from Log Cabin to White House" in boyhood was the first experience through which I began to understand and admire America.

Yours very sincerely,
HORACE J. BRIDGES,
Leader, Chicago Ethical Society.